

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2012-2013 Commercial King Mackerel Season

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 49:953 which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to employ emergency procedures to establish seasonal rules to set finfish seasons, R.S. 56:6(25)(a) and 56:326.3 which provide that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish; the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby sets the following season for the commercial harvest of king mackerel in Louisiana state waters:

The commercial season for king mackerel in Louisiana state waters will open at 12:01 a.m., July 1, 2012 and remain open until the allotted portion of the commercial king mackerel quota for the western Gulf of Mexico has been harvested or projected to be harvested.

The Commission grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close the commercial king mackerel season in Louisiana state waters when he is informed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that the commercial king mackerel quota for the western Gulf of Mexico has been harvested or is projected to be harvested, such closure order shall close the season until 12:01 a.m., July 1, 2013, which is the date expected to be set for the re-opening of the 2013-14 commercial king mackerel season in Federal waters.

The Commission also authorizes the Secretary to open additional commercial king mackerel seasons in Louisiana state waters if he is informed that NMFS has opened such additional seasons and to close such seasons when he is informed that the commercial king mackerel quota for the western Gulf of Mexico has been filled, or is projected to be filled, or as needed to effectively implement the provisions herein upon notification to the Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Effective with seasonal closures under this rule, no person shall commercially harvest, possess, purchase, exchange, barter, trade, sell, or attempt to purchase, exchange, barter, trade, or sell king mackerel, whether taken from within or without Louisiana territorial waters. Also effective with this closure, no person shall possess king mackerel in excess of a daily bag limit, which may only be in possession during the open recreational season by legally licensed recreational fishermen. Nothing shall prohibit the possession or sale of fish by a commercial dealer if legally taken prior to the closure providing that all commercial dealers possessing such fish taken legally prior to the closure shall maintain appropriate records in accordance with R.S. 56:306.5 and R.S. 56:306.6.

Stephen W. Sagrera, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission